

FIG

great talk; but that is ever good for the publick: but he that plots to be the only figure among cyphers, is the decay of a whole age.

As in accounts cyphers and figures pass for real sums, so in human affairs words pass for things themselves. *South's Sermon.*
9. The horoscope; the diagram of the aspects of the astrological houses.

We do not know what's brought to pass under the profession of fortunetelling: the works by charms, by spells, by the figure, and dawning beyond our element. *Shakespeare.*

He set a figure to discover.

If you were fled to Rye or Dover. *Hudibras, p. iii. cant. 1.*
Figure flingers and star-gazers pretend to foretell the fortunes of kingdoms, and have no foresight in what concerns themselves. *L'Estrange, Fable 94.*

10. [In theology.] Type representative.

Who was the figure of him that is to come. *Romans.*

11. [In rhetoric.] Any mode of speaking in which words are deformed from their literal and primitive sense. In strict acceptation, the change of a word is a trope, and any affection of a sentence a figure; but they are generally confounded by the exactest writers.

Silken terms precise,
Three pil'd hyperboles, spruce affectation,
Figures pedantical, these Summer flies

Have blown me full of maggot ostentation. *Shakespeare.*

Here is a strange figure invented against the plain and natural sense of the words; for by praying to bestow, must be understood only praying to pray.

They have been taught rhetoric, but yet never taught to express themselves in the language they are always to use; as if the names of the figures that embellished the discourse of those, who understood the art of speaking, were the very art and skill of speaking well. *Locke.*

12. [In grammar.] Any deviation from the rules of analogy or syntax.

To FIGURE. *v. a.* [figure, Latin.]

1. To form into any determinate shape.

Trees and herbs, in the growing forth of their boughs and branches, are not figured, and keep no order.

Accept this goblet, rough with figur'd gold. *Dryden, Virgil.*

2. To show by a corporeal resemblance: as in picture or statuary.

Arachne figur'd how Jove did abuse

Europe like a bull, and on his back

Her through the sea did bear; so lively seen,

That it true sea, and true bull ye would ween. *Spenser.*

Now marks the course of rolling orbs on high,

O'er figur'd worlds now travels with his eye. *Pope.*

3. To cover or adorn with figures.

I'll give my jewels for a set of beads,

My gorgeous palace for a hermitage,

My gay apparel for an almsman's gown,

My figur'd goblets for a dish of wood. *Shakespeare, Richard II.*

4. To diversify; to variegate with adventitious forms or matter.

But this effusion of such manly drops,

Startle mine eyes, and makes me more amaz'd

Than had I seen the vaulty top of heav'n

Figur'd quite o'er with burning meteors. *Shakespeare, K. John.*

5. To represent by a typical or figurative resemblance.

When sacraments are said to be visible signs of invisible grace, we thereby conceive how grace is indeed the very end for which these heavenly mysteries were instituted; and the matter whereof they consist is such as signifieth, figureth, and representeth their end.

There is a history in all mens lives,

Figuring the nature of the times deceased. *Shakespeare, Hen. IV.*

Marriage rings are not of this stuff:

Oh! why should ought less precious or less tough

Figure our loves? *Dante.*

The emperor appears as a rising sun, and holds a globe in his hand to figure out the earth that is enlightened and actuated by his beams. *Addison on ancient Medals.*

6. To image in the mind.

None that feels sensibly the decays of age, and his life wearing off, can figure to himself those imaginary charms in riches and praise, that men are apt to do in the warmth of their blood. *Temple.*

If love, alas! be pain, the pain I bear

No thought can figure, and no tongue declare. *Prior.*

7. To prefigure; to foreshow.

Three glorious suns, each one a perfect sun,

In this the heaven figures some event. *Shakespeare, Henry VI.*

8. To form figuratively; to use in a sense not literal.

Figured and metaphorical expressions do well to illustrate more abstruse and unfamiliar ideas, which the mind is not yet thoroughly accustomed to. *Locke.*

FIGURE-FLINGER. *n. s.* [figure and sling.] A pretender to astrology and prediction.

Quacks, figure-flingers, pettifoggers, and republican plotters cannot well live without it. *Collier of Confidence.*

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FIL'GORT. *n. s.* [fig and wort.] A plant.

It hath an anomalous flower, consisting of one leaf, gaping at both sides, and generally globular, cut as it were into two lips, under the upper one of which are two small leaves. *Milt.*

FILACER. *n. s.* [filaxarius, low Lat. filum.] Consisting of threads; composed of threads.

They make cables of the bark of lime-trees: it is the stalk that maketh the filaceous matter commonly, and sometimes the down that groweth above. *Bacon's Natural History.*

FILACER. *n. s.* [filaxarius, low Lat. filum.] An officer in the Common Pleas, so called because he files those writs whereon he makes process. There are fourteen of them in their several divisions and counties: they make out all original process, as well real as personal and mixt. *Harris.*

FILAMENT. *n. s.* [filament, Fr. filamenta, Latin.] A slender thread; a body slender and long like a thread.

The effluvium passing out in a smaller thread, and more enlightened filament, it stirreth not the bodies interposed. *Bro.*

The lungs of consumptives have been consumed, nothing remaining but the ambient membrane, and a number of withered veins and filaments. *Harvey on Consumptions.*

The ever-rolling orb's impulsive ray

On the next threads and filaments does bear,

Which form the springy texture of the air

And those still strike the next, 'till to the light

The quick vibration propagates the light. *Blackm. Creation.*

The dung of hories is nothing but the filaments of the hay, and as such combustible. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

FILBERT. *n. s.* [This is derived from Junius and Skinner from the long beards or huffs, as corrupted from full beard, or full of beard.] It probably had its name, like many other fruits, from some one that introduced or cultivated it; and is therefore corrupted from Filbert or Filibert, the name of him who brought it hither.] A fine hazel nut with a thin shell.

In August comes fruit of all sorts; as plums, pears, apricots, barbaries, filberts, muskmelons, monkhoods of all colours. *Bacon, Essay 47.*

Thou hast a brain, such as it is indeed!

On what else should thy worm of fancy feed?

Yet in a filbert I have often known

Maggots survive, when all the kernel's gone. *Dorset.*

There is also another kind, called the filbert of Constantinople; the leaves and fruit of which are bigger than either of the former; the best are those of a thin shell. *Mortimer.*

To FILCH. *v. a.* [A word of uncertain etymology. The French word filer, from which some derive it, is of very late production, and therefore cannot be its original.] To steal; to take by theft; to pilfer; to pilage; to rob; to take by robbery. It is usually spoken of petty thefts.

He shall find his wealth wonderfully enlarged by keeping his cattle in inclosures, where they shall always have safe being, that none are continually filched and stolen. *Spenser.*

The champion robbeth by night,

And prowlth and filcheth by daie. *Tusser's Husbandry.*

Who steals my purse, steals trash; 'tis something, nothing;

'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands;

But he that filches from me my good name,

Robs me of that which no enriches him,

And makes me poor indeed. *Shakespeare's Othello.*

His thefts were too open; his filching was like an unskillful finger, he kept no time. *Shakespeare, Merry Wives of Windsor.*

He could discern cities like hives of bees, wherein every bee did nought else but sting; some like hornets, some like filching wasps, others as drones. *Burton on Melancholy.*

What made thee venture to betray,

And filch the lady's heart away. *Hudibras, p. iii. cant. 1.*

The pismire was formerly a husbandman, that secretly filched away his neighbour's goods. *L'Estrange's Fables.*

Fain would they filch that little food away,

While unrefrain'd those happy gluttons prey. *Dryden.*

So speeds the wily fox, alarm'd by fear,

Who lately filch'd the turkey's callow care. *Gay's Trivia.*

FILCHER. *n. s.* [from filch.] A thief; a petty robber.

FILE. *n. s.* [file, French; filum, a thread, Latin.]

1. A thread.

But let me resume the file of my relation, which this object of books, best agreeable to my course of life, hath a little interrupted. *Wotton.*

2. A line on which papers are strung to keep them in order.

All records, wherein there was any memory of the king's attainder, should be cancelled and taken off the file. *Bacon.*

The petitions being thus prepared, do you continually set apart an hour in a day to peruse those, and then rank them into several files, according to the subject matters. *Bacon.*

Th' apothecary-train is wholly blind;

From files a random recipe they take,

And many deaths of one prescription make. *Dryden.*

3. A catalogue; roll; series.

Our present matters grow upon the file

To five and twenty thousand men of choice. *Shakespeare, H. IV.*

The val'd file

Distinguishes the swift, the slow, the subtle. *Shakespeare, Macbeth.*

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4. A line of soldiers ranged one behind another.

Those goodly eyes,

That o'er the files and musters of the war

Have glow'd like plated Mars, now bend, now turn

Upon a tawny front. *Shakespeare's Ant. and Cleopatra.*

So saying, on he led his radiant files.

Dazzling the moon. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. iv.*

5. [peol, Saxon; vijle, Dutch.] An instrument to rub down prominences.

The rough or coarse-toothed file, if it be large, is called a rubber, and is to take off the unevenness of your work which the hammer made in the forging: the bastard-toothed file is to take out of your work the deep cuts, or file-strokes, the rough file made: the fine-toothed file is to take out the cuts, or file-strokes, the bastard file made; and the smooth file is to take out those cuts, or file-strokes, that the fine file made. *Moxon.*

Yet they had a file for the matts and for the coulters. *Sa. xiii. 21.*

The smiths and armourers on palestreys ride,

Files in their hands and hammers at their side,

And nails for loosen'd spears, and thongs for shields provide. *Dryden's Knight's Tale.*

FILCUTTER. *n. s.* [file and cutter.] A maker of files.

Gad-steel is a tough sort of steel: filecutters use it to make their chisels, with which they cut their files. *Moxon.*

To FILE. *v. a.* [from filum, a thread.]

1. To string upon a thread or wire. Whence to file a bile is to offer it in its order to the notice of the judge.

From the day his first bill was filed he began to collect reports. *Arbutnot and Pope's Mart. Scrib.*

2. [from peolan, Saxon.] To cut with a file.

They which would file away most from the largeness of that offer, do in more sparing terms acknowledge little less. *Hooker, b. v. f. 27.*

His humour is lofty, his discourse peremptory, his tongue filed, and his eye ambitious. *Shakespeare, Love's Labour's Lost.*

Let men be careful how they attempt to cure a blemish by filing or cutting off the head of such an overgrown tooth. *Ray.*

3. [from plan.] To soul; to fully; to pollute. This sense is retained in Scotland.

For Banquo's issue have I fil'd my mind,

For them the gracious Duncan have I murder'd. *Shakespeare.*

His weeds, divinely fashioned,

All fit'd and mangl'd. *Chapman's Iliads, b. xviii.*

To FILE. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To march in a file, not abreast, but one behind another.

All ran down without order or ceremony, 'till we drew up in good order, and filed off. *Tatler, N. 86.*

Did all the grosser atoms at the cell

Of chance file off to form the pond'rous ball,

And undetermin'd into order fall? *Blackmore's Creation.*

FIL'EMOT. *n. s.* [corrupted from feuille morte, a dead leaf, French.] A brown or yellow-brown colour.

The colours you ought to wish for are blue or filemot, turned up with red. *Swift's Drift. to the Footman.*

FIL'ER. *n. s.* [from file.] One who files; one who uses the file in cutting metals.

FILIAL. *adj.* [filial-les, French; filius, Latin.]

1. Pertaining to a son; befitting a son.

My mischievous proceeding may be the glory of his filial piety, the only reward now left for so great a merit. *Sidney.*

From imposition of strict laws, to free

Acceptance of large grace; from servile fear

To filial; works of law, to works of faith. *Milt. Pa. Lof.*

He griev'd, he wept, the fight an image brought

Of his own filial love; a sadly pleasing thought. *Dryden.*

2. Bearing the character or relation of a son.

And thus the filial godhead answering spoke. *Milt. P. L.*

Where the old myrtle her good influence sheds,

Sprigs of like leaf erect their filial heads;

And when the parent rose decays and dies,

With a resembling face the daughter buds arise. *Prior.*

FILIALITY. *n. s.* [from filius, Latin.] The relation of a son to a father; correlative to paternity.

The relation of paternity and filiation, between the first and second person, and the relation between the sacred persons of the Trinity, and the denomination thereof, must needs be eternal, because the terms of relation between whom that relation ariseth were eternal. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

FILINGS. *n. s.* [without a singular; from file.] Fragments rubbed off by the action of the file.

The filings of iron infused in vinegar, will, with a decoction of galls, make good ink, without any copperose at all. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. vi. c. 12.*

The chippings and filings of those jewels are of more value than the whole mass of ordinary authors. *Felton on the Claff.*

To FIL'LE. *v. n.* [pyllan, Saxon.]

1. To store 'till no more can be admitted.

Fill thine horn with oil. *1 Sa. xvi. 1.*

Fill the waterpots with water, and they filled them up to the brim. *Jo. ii. 7.*

FIL

The earth is filled with violence through them. *Gen. vi. 13.*

2. To store abundantly.

Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas. *Gen.*

3. To satisfy; to content.

Nothing but the supreme and absolute Infinite can adequately fill and super-abundantly satisfy the infinite desires of intelligent beings. *Cheyne's Phil. Princ.*

4. To glut; to surfeit.

Thou art going to lord Timon's feast.

—Ay, to see meat fill knaves, and wine heat fools. *Shakespeare.*

5. To FILL out. To pour out liquor for drink.

6. To FILL out. To extend by something contained.

I only speak of him

Whom pomp and greatness fits so loose about,

That he wants majesty to fill them out. *Dryden.*

7. To FILL up. [Up is often used without much addition to the force of the verb.] To make full.

Hope leads from goal to goal,

And opens still, and opens on his soul;

'Till lengthen'd on to faith, and unconfin'd,

It pours the bliss that fills up all the mind. *Pope's Essay on Man.*

8. To FILL up. To supply.

When the several trades and professions are supplied, you will find most of those that are proper for war absolutely necessary for filling up the laborious part of life, and carrying on the underwork of the nation. *Addison on the War.*

9. To FILL up. To occupy by bulk.

There would not be altogether so much water required for the land as for the sea, to raise them to an equal height; because mountains and hills would fill up part of that space upon the land, and so make less water requisite. *Burnet.*

10. To FILL up. To engage; to employ.

Is it far you ride?

—As far, my lord, as will fill up the time

'Twixt this and supper. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

To FILL. *v. n.*

1. To give to drink.

In the cup which she hath filled, fill to her double. *Rev. xviii.*

We fill to th' general joy of the whole table,

And to our dear friend Banquo, whom we miss. *Shakespeare, Macbeth.*

2. To grow full.

Things that are sweet and fat are more filling, and do swim and hang more about the mouth of the stomach, and go not down so speedily. *Bacon's Natural History.*

3. To glut; to satiate.

Neither the Palus Meotis nor the Euxine, nor any other seas, fill up, or by degrees grow shallower. *Woodward.*

4. To FILL up. To grow full.

The first stage of healing, or the discharge of matter, is by surgeons called digestion; the second, or the filling up with flesh, incarnation; and the last, or skinning over, cicatrization. *Sharp's Surgery.*

FILL. *n. s.* [from the verb.]

1. As much as may produce complete satisfaction.

Her neck and breasts were ever open bare,

That aye thereof her babes might suck their fill. *Fairy Queen.*

But thus inflam'd bespoke the captain,

Who corneth peace shall have his fill of war. *Fairfax, b. ii.*

When ye were thirsty, did I not cleave the rock, and waters flowed out to your fill? *2 Esd. i. 20.*